



P.B. 5818 - Patentlaan 2  
2280 HV Rijswijk (ZH)  
☎ +31 70 340 2040  
TX 31651 epo nl  
FAX +31 70 340 3016

### Europäisches Patentamt

Zweigstelle  
in Den Haag  
Recherchen-  
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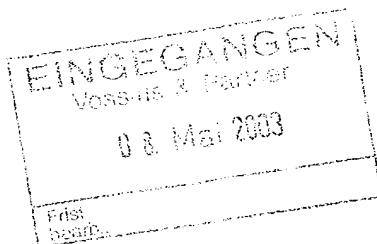
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VOSSIUS & PARTNER  
Postfach 86 07 67  
81634 München  
ALLEMAGNE



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Zeichen/Ref./Réf.

C 2285 EP

Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°.  
97946124.1

Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire  
KYOWA HAKKO KOGYO CO., Ltd.

## COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits

- ☐ the European search report
- ☐ the declaration under Rule 45 EPC
- ☐ the partial European search report under Rule 45 EPC
- ☒ the supplementary European search report concerning the international application under Article 157(2) EPC relating to the above-mentioned European patent application. Copies of the documents cited in the search report are enclosed.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division :

- ☐ Abstract ☐ Title ☐ Figure
- ☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.
- ☐ The following figure will be published with the abstract, since the Search Division considers that it better characterises the invention than the one indicated by the applicant.

Figure:

- ☒ Additional copy(copies) of the documents cited in the European search report.

## REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.



EPO Form 1507 02.93




### CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

### LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.

☒ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

1-2, 7-12 (partially); 3-6, 13 (completely) Relating to  
Seq.Id.Nos. 1/32 and 31 = Invention 1 and 29

☐ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

Invention 1: claims 1-2, 7-12 (partially); 3-6,  
13 (completely),

A DNA related to IgA nephropathy gene, said DNA being selected from the group consisting of (a) a DNA comprising the nucleotide sequence represented by Seq. Id. No. 1; (b) a DNA encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence represented by Seq. Id. No. 32; transformants, proteins, antibodies, and methods relating thereto.

Invention 2: claims 1-2, 7-12 (partially)

A DNA related to IgA nephropathy gene, said DNA being selected from the group consisting of a DNA comprising the nucleotide sequence represented by Seq. Id. No. 3 and methods relating thereto.

Invention 3-29: claims 1-2, 7-12 (partially)

the same as subject 2, however relating to Seq. Id. No. 4;  
5; ... 31;



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**SUPPLEMENTARY  
EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**

Application Number  
EP 97 94 6124

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	DATABASE EMBL 'Online! 10 October 1996 (1996-10-10) "Human cosmid LUCA22" retrieved from EBI Database accession no. U73168 XP002211419 *Invention 1; Seq. Id. Nos. 1/32* 99.459% identity in 2220 nt overlap to Seq. Id. Nos. 1. '2663-444:27682-29894! * abstract *	1-13	C12N15/12 C07K14/47 C12Q1/68 A61K38/17 C12P21/02 G01N33/53 G01N33/577
X	DATABASE SWISSPROT 'Online! 1 October 1996 (1996-10-01) "LUCA15" retrieved from EBI Database accession no. P52756 XP002211420 *Invention 1; Seq. Id. Nos. 1/32* 99% identity in 139aa overlap to Seq. Id. No. 32 '1-139:1-139! * abstract *	1-13	
X	DATABASE EMBL 'Online! 15 August 1996 (1996-08-15) retrieved from EBI Database accession no. N89899 XP002238226 *Invention 2; Seq. Id. No. 31* 100% identity in 437nt overlap with Seq. Id. No. 31 '509-74:1-437! * abstract *	1-13	C12N C07K A61K C12P G01N
The supplementary search report has been based on the last set of claims valid and available at the start of the search.			
Place of search <b>MUNICH</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>22 April 2003</b>	Examiner <b>Petri, B</b>
<b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b> X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C04)



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**SUPPLEMENTARY  
EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**

Application Number  
EP 97 94 6124

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
A,D	LAI KAR NENG ET AL: "Increased mRNA encoding for transforming factor-beta in CD4+ cells from patients with IgA nephropathy." KIDNEY INTERNATIONAL, vol. 46, no. 3, 1994, pages 862-868, XP001096449 ISSN: 0085-2538  -----		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
The supplementary search report has been based on the last set of claims valid and available at the start of the search.			
Place of search <b>MUNICH</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>22 April 2003</b>	Examiner <b>Petri, B</b>
<b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b> X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document  T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons  & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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